



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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LAKE CITY, FLORIDA, MAN SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Edward Gaines**, 37, Lake City, Florida, was sentenced on August 23, 2004, by Chief U.S. District Judge John Lungstrum to **nineteen years and seven months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Gaines entered a guilty plea on February 27, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more (1.1 pounds or more) of cocaine.

Melgren stated that Gaines admitted at his plea that from January 2003 through June 2003, Gaines conspired with others to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute over 500 grams of cocaine. Gaines admitted that on June 1, 2003, he, along with co-defendant Lamesha Tibbets, were stopped by the Kansas Highway Patrol in Wyandotte County, Kansas, for a traffic violation. Gaines admitted that he was a passenger in the 1999 Oldsmobile. Gaines further admitted that when law enforcement officers searched the Oldsmobile they found four bundles of cocaine and four bundles of marijuana concealed in the engine compartment of the vehicle. Gaines admitted that after the discovery of the narcotics, he escaped in the Kansas Highway Patrol vehicle which he later abandoned in Kansas City, Kansas. Gaines further admitted that he was arrested in October 2003 in Lake City, Florida. Gaines also admitted that between February 2003 and June 2003 he had made six trips with Tibbets from Colorado to Florida and delivered between 1.5 and 6 kilograms (between 3.3 pounds and 13.2 pounds) of cocaine and between one and four pounds of marijuana to his buyers in Lake City, Florida, each trip. Gaines further admitted that he was introduced to Tibbets to assist him in driving the narcotics between Colorado and Florida by Joshalyn Pair.

Co-defendant **Lamesha Tibbets**, 21, Aurora, Colorado, entered a guilty plea on February 25, 2004, to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine. Tibbets was sentenced on June 1, 2004, to 70

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months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by three years of supervised release.

Co-defendant **Joshalyn Pair**, 22, Denver, Colorado, entered a guilty plea on March 1, 2004, to one count of using a telephone to aid in the distribution of a controlled substance. Pair admitted at her plea that on May 31, 2003, Gaines contacted her on her cellular phone to arrange to use her vehicle to drive the narcotics to Florida for which Pair was paid \$1,000. Pair further admitted that this was the vehicle Tibbets was driving when Tibbets and Gaines were stopped by the Kansas Highway Patrol on June 1, 2003, in Wyandotte County, Kansas. Pair faces a maximum of four years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for September 27, 2004.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheri McCracken in this prosecution.